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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

AUSTRIA.

Trieste—Plague Rats on Vessel.

A report from the American embassy at Vienna, Austria, July 11, states: On Friday, July 7, the sanitary commission of Trieste, on examination of the conditions on board the steamship *Africana*, chartered by the Austro-American Steamship Line, and but lately returned from Buenos Aires, discovered dead rats in the hold, which were shown by bacteriological examination to have died of bubonic plague. By order of the commission work on board was stopped at once and the vessel was towed from her pier into the harbor, where she will remain under quarantine until further orders. None of the crew has developed symptoms of the disease, but they will be kept under close observation.

CHINA.

Hongkong—Plague.

Surg. Brown reports: During the week ended June 15, 126 cases of plague, with 104 deaths, and during the week ended June 22, 127 cases of plague, with 99 deaths, were reported in Hongkong.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Liverpool—Case of Plague.

A seven-year-old boy sick with plague was sent to hospital July 26.

GUATEMALA.

Sanitary Status of Ports and Inland Towns.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ames reported July 4:

LIVINGSTON.

Livingston is the capital of the Department of Yzabal and the residence of the American consular agent who has the ports of Livingston, Santo Tomas, and Puerto Barrios in his district. The town is situated on a high bluff facing the sea at the mouth of the Rio Dulce. Drainage excellent. Water supply: Rain water stored in unscreened cisterns, all containing stegomyia larvæ. Prevailing diseases: Malaria, dysentery, whooping cough, and mumps. Loading of ships: In open sea about 1 mile from shore. Imports: General merchandise and construction material from Europe and United States. Exports: Coffee, hides, and deerskins to Europe, and bananas to Mobile.

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SANTO TOMAS.

Santo Tomas is situated on the coast 10 miles from Livingston and 2 miles from Puerto Barrios. The town site is on an elevation at the base of the foothills. Drainage: Excellent. Water supply: Rain water stored in unscreened tanks, in all of which stegomyia larvæ are present. Prevailing diseases: Malaria, mumps, dysentery. Loading of ships: In open bay about 1 mile from shore. Imports: None. All supplies are obtained from Livingston and Puerto Barrios. Exports: Bananas to Mobile.

PUERTO BARRIOS.

The town is situated on the sea at the terminal of the International Railway of Central America and 278 miles from the port of San Jose, the Pacific terminal of the same railway. The town site is on low swampy ground and was originally a mangrove swamp, but now with a few ditches and filling here and there some solid ground has been formed sufficient for the foundation of the few well-constructed houses of the railway, United Fruit Co., comandancia and hotel, and the many manaca shacks that decorate three-fourths of the village and serve as shelter for the 800 mixed population. The extensive sanitary improvements proposed by the railway company have not up to the present been accepted by the Guatemala Government. The fruit company and the railway company are bettering conditions at Puerto Barrios and other places adjoining their holdings. At the present time these companies have their special civil engineer here engaged in construction work. The work now in progress is the extension of the pier to a distance of 1,600 feet out in the bay with a structural steel building on the end, and the erection at Quirigua, 50 miles inland, on the railway line, of a modern reenforced concrete hospital for the treatment of United Fruit Co. employees.

Prevailing diseases: Malaria, dysentery, and intestinal parasites. Sick and injured from this port are taken to the hospitals at Dartmouth and Zacapa. Water supply: Rain water stored in cisterns, some screened and others not. A limited supply of water piped from the railway tank one-half mile from town and distributed at several points in the village. At times this water is inadequate and other sources must be relied upon. Mosquitoes: Stegomyia present but not as numerous as in former years. Loading of ships: All vessels except the large passenger ships of the United Fruit Co. discharge and receive cargo and passengers at the railway dock. Imports: General merchandise, construction material from Europe and the United States. The greater portion of the freight landed at Barrios is placed in sealed cars and taken to the customhouse at Guatemala City. Freight for points this side of the Guatemala customhouse is passed by the Barrios customhouse and sent in sealed cars to the intermediate stations on the railway line. Exports: Bananas, coffee, and hides to the United States; to Europe, coffee and hides.

INLAND TOWNS.

The following places on the railway are in close communication with Puerto Barrios, viz: Tenedoris, Cayuga, Senega, Dartmouth, Morales, Virginia, Montufa, Quiiga, Los Amates, Santa Ines, Iguana, Gualan,

San Pablo, Zacapa, Cabanas, Jicoro, El Rancho, Progresso, Estrada Cabrera, Sanarate, Aguaente, and Guatemala City. So far as I have been able to learn stegomyia are found at all points on the line up to El Rancho. Zacapa is the spot where in the past the epidemics of yellow fever have played the most havoc. Frequent inspections have failed to show anything of a suspicious nature in the railway hospital at Zacapa or the fruit company hospital at Dartmouth.

Record of cases and deaths at the company hospitals.

	Month.	Malaria.		Other diseases.		Total cases.
		Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	
United Fruit Co. hospital at Dartmouth ..	April....	51	1	60	2	111
	May.....	74	62	4	136
	June....	121	4	75	196
International Ry. hospital at Zacapa.....	May.....	203	1	29	1	232
	June....	128	1	32	1	160

GUATEMALA CITY.

The sanitary conditions are good, except that flies, fleas, rats, and mosquitoes are all very numerous. So far I have not found the stegomyia in the city. At Esquintla, 30 miles from the city on the Pacific section of the International Railway, the stegomyia are numerous over the town and particularly in and about the railway depot.

Prevailing diseases: In the reports of the general hospital malaria heads the list of diseases treated and intestinal parasites take second place. The leper hospital has a capacity of 150 beds and appears always full. The Government of Guatemala has under consideration the establishment of a sanatorium for consumptives. Smallpox is prevalent in remote sections of the country. The laws require vaccination and revaccination every five years.

SAN JOSE DE GUATEMALA.

This town is the Pacific terminal of the International Railway of Central America. Population: About 3,000, mostly natives and negroes in the employ of railway and dock company. Prevailing diseases: Malaria and dysentery. At this port, owing to the distance being only 75 miles from Guatemala City, nearly all the sick go to the General Hospital for treatment. Water supply: Rain water stored in unscreened tanks, also artesian wells at the hotel and wharf agency. Loading of ships: A pier extends out beyond the surf, and from there the cargoes are taken in lighters out to the ships at anchor some half mile in open sea. Imports: General merchandise and construction material from the United States and Europe, either direct or via the Mexican railways and Salina Cruz, Mexico. Exports: Coffee; about 125,000 bags yearly to San Francisco, Cal., and some to Europe. However, with the consolidation of the Central and Northern Railways into the International, practically all the coffee from the Pacific slope is now shipped out of the country via Puerto Barrios.

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CHAMPERICO.

This port is at the terminal of the Masaltenango branch of the International Railway and formerly was one of the important coffee-shipping ports. Loading ships at this port is done in open bay.

O COS.

This port is located at the extreme corner of Guatemala on the boundary line of Mexico at the termination of a short railway. Prevailing diseases: Nothing is known, except such information as is obtained by persons at Livingston who have relatives and friends residing at Ocos, who report that last season several cases and deaths from yellow fever occurred. Mention of this focus was reported by the writer to the bureau several months ago. Loading of ships: Vessels at Ocos are loaded in open bay with cargoes of coffee for foreign ports.

HAWAII.**Examination of Rodents for Plague Infection.**

During the week ended July 6, 1912, 543 rats and mongoose were examined at Hilo and 1,396 at Honokaa. No plague infection was found. The last case of human plague occurred at Honokaa March 15, 1912. The last plague-infected rat was found between Honokaa and Kapulena April 24, 1912.

HONDURAS.**Sanitary Status of Ports and Inland Towns.**

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ames reported July 4:

VERA CRUZ.

The town has a mixed population of about 100. Water supply, a few cisterns unscreened. However, no stegomyia were found in any of them. Prevailing disease: Malaria.

CUYAMEL PLANTATION.

Cuyamel plantation is 7 miles inland and is connected with Vera Cruz by a standard-gauge railroad. Population, 2,500. Prevailing diseases: Malaria, dysentery, measles, mumps, and whooping cough. Water supply, collected from Cuyamel River as required. The Cuyamel Co. has about erected an up-to-date water system with a 40,000-gallon steel tank on a 60-foot tower. The water is pumped from the river by a hydraulic ram. Numerous water mains are distributed over the plantation village. This is the only place I have found wherein stegomyia and rats do not exist.

OMOA.

Omoa is situated on the coast 12 miles from Puerto Cortes at quite an elevation in the foothills of the Omoa Mountains. It was founded by the Spaniards in 1515. Population: 500. Water supply: Rain